

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wilgus (U.S Patent 4,845,817). The Examiner has objected to claim 5 under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 4.

Applicants canceled claim 2 in a prior reply to an office action and cancel claim 5 herein. Applicants have previously amended claim 1. Currently pending are claims 1, 3, 4, and 6.

The Examiner states that Wilgus discloses a bearing shell... an axial groove (located between the flanges) running along an outside of a crankshaft bearing shell... Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion. Wilgus does not show an axial groove running along an outside of a crankshaft bearing shell. The Examiner has given no reference number to a drawing or citation within the specification in Wilgus to indicate such feature. Because Wilgus does not show such "axial groove," Wilgus cannot possibly anticipate Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of 102(b) rejections to claim 1 and to claims 3, 4, and 6, which depend from claim 1.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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